

Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District

2007 Annual Report

Message From the Chairwoman...

"Going Green" is the catch phrase we will remember from 2007. This phrase simply means taking cost saving actions that are good for the environment. The following are some examples:

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) require a great investment initially, but last approximately 6 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Driving the speed limit helps save

money for your pocket and keeps our air cleaner.

Planting trees in well planned landscaping helps to control temperatures in your home, protects our water from yard pollutants and cleans the air.

Your conservation district partnered with the county and Waste Management to distribute more than 500 CFLs at an information seminar at Lowe's in Novem-

ber. On the same day, we helped sponsor an E-waste Recycling project located at Office Max.

Do you need more information to help you with your personal "going green" plan? Maybe you know a group that would benefit from this information.

Give our staff a call at 534-2409x.3.

B. Louise Hughes

All federal, state, and local programs and services provided through the Orangeburg Conservation District & USDA-NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis. Without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

Appointed Commissioners:

B. Louise Hughes
Chairwoman

George Ulmer
Vice-Chairman

Elected Commissioners:

Buddy Felder
Treasurer

Ewart Irick
Secretary

Vacant
Position

Commissioners Emeritus:

Larry Patrick, Judge James C. Williams, Clyde B. Livingston, & Fred K. Norris, Jr.

Personnel Assisting the District

Conservation District Employees

Glenda B. Lewis
District Manager

Diane D. Curlee
Education Coordinator

USDA—NRCS

(Natural Resources Conservation Service)

S. Frank Stephens
District Conservationist

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)
Jonathan Williams, Program Coordinator
USDA-NRCS Area Wildlife Biologist
Sudie Daves Thomas

Charles R. Holland, Soil Conservationist
Darryl V. Johnson
Soil Conservation Technician



Holly Hill Phase II Completed

In August 2007, USDA-NRCS completed Phase II of the Holly Hill Flood Prevention Project. **The project consisted of 6.5 miles of new channel and improvement of existing channels, which reduced the flooding potential in and around the Town of Holly Hill in eastern Orangeburg County.** USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Orangeburg Conservation District worked in cooperation with Orangeburg County to make the long-anticipated flooding improvements a reality for Holly Hill residents and landowners.

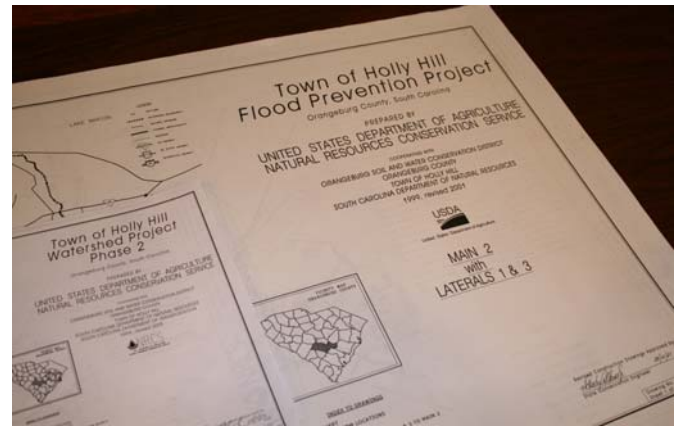
The project included an extensive series of road crossings and pipe systems both outside and inside the city limits of town. A component of the project is the Home

Branch diversion, which re-routed flood water from Home Branch to Target Swamp to reduce the potential for flooding during extended periods of heavy rainfall.

The major funding source for the Holly Hill Phase II was the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation

The major funding source for the Holly Hill Phase II was the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Small Watershed program.

Service's Small Watershed program. USDA-NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Darryl Johnson of the Orangeburg Field Office provided layout and installation inspection services for the project.



USDA-NRCS Orangeburg Field Office

2007 Accomplishments

Because of our many conservation-minded farmers and their efforts to improve the land, USDA-NRCS had another successful year in protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Orangeburg County. In cooperation with our farmers and landowners, the Orangeburg Field Office continues to be a leader in South Carolina for planning and applying conservation practices. The

highlights of those activities are as follows:

USDA-NRCS developed conservation plans on 5718 acres which included cropland, grazing land and wildlife management land, to protect and enhance the natural resources of Orangeburg County.

USDA-NRCS planning and implementation activities resulted in: **soil quality improvement on 3200 acres, improved irrigation efficiency on 1855 acres, improved wildlife habitat on 453 acres and improved**

grazing land for livestock on 121 acres in Orangeburg County.



USDA-NRCS programs brought **\$381,525 in conservation cost-share funds** to our county in 2007, **which helped our farmers and landowners install a variety of conservation measures on 6478 acres** in order to make Orangeburg County a better place to live and work.





WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

What is a watershed? A watershed maybe as small as the area that drains water to a creek or pond or as large as the area drained by a particular river (including all the creeks, etc. that flow into it). Orangeburg County has four large watersheds: the South and North Forks of the Edisto River, Four Holes Swamp and Lake Marion. Highway 4 closely follows the ridge between the North and South Forks of the Edisto River. The upper parts of the Four Holes Swamp watershed is between Cameron and Orangeburg and extends through Ellore, Vance, Holly Hill and Bowman areas. Parts of Ellore, Santee, Vance and Eutawville are on the brim of the Lake Marion watershed.

The next time it rains, get out your umbrella and go for a walk

in the rain. Notice where the surface water flows. Does it flow to a ditch? Does the ditch drain to a pond or creek? Where does the water from the pond or creek flow? What is the name of the river that it flows into? The Edisto River is made of water that flows from the Sandhills through the Coastal Plain to the Atlantic Ocean at Edisto Island. Often we do not think about the impacts we have on our vacation spots. Edisto Beach is a popular vacation destination. Some of the water from the Edisto River is diverted through a canal to Charleston for their drinking water.

The next time you think about dumping a pesticide container or an engine fluid on the soil—**Stop and Think**—it could impact your pond, your drinking water or

your vacation spot. We are all down stream from someone. Each of us has the responsibility to keep our surface and ground water clean. It is all connected.

If this is a topic you would like to learn more about, the conservation district has a ground water flow model and a non-point and point source pollution EnviroScape (Model of a Watershed) to help visualize how surface and ground water affect each other. Diane Curlee is available to bring the models to meetings. Give her a call at 534-2409x.3, if you are interested.

Non-point and Point Source Pollution EnviroScape Model



Orangeburg Conservation District A Dynamic Organization Changing with the Times

The Conservation District changes programs as our budget allows. Looking through this report you will notice two events are no longer being held. Make a Splash with Project WET and Progressive Agriculture Safety Day have run their course. The district partnered with SC DNR to put on the Splash Day at schools across the county since 2000. However, the grant money was very low

this year. Rather than having two small camps, the Orangeburg District relinquished our spot and did not hold a Splash event allowing Beaufort to have full funding for their event.

The district changed its focus on how we conduct the farm safety event. We have moved the event from schools to the farm. The event is structured for the entire family. Our goal is to hold this event in a different community each year.

USDA-NRCS Student Intern

Jeffrey Epps served as a USDA-NRCS student intern in the Orangeburg Field Office during the summer of 2007.

Jeffrey is a native of Orangeburg County and a graduate of Edisto High School. He is currently a student at Clemson University, majoring in Agriculture Education.

During the summer Jeffrey received hands-on training in a wide variety of conservation-related topics including the local conservation partnership between the Orangeburg Conservation District and USDA-NRCS. By working with the field office staff, Jeffrey learned the many ways that USDA-NRCS assists its customers in planning and applying conservation practices to maintain or improve the county's natural resources.

After graduation, Jeffrey plans to pursue a career in either natural resource conservation or agricultural education.



Orangeburg County Conservation District has joined the ENERGY STAR® Campaign to Help “Change the World” www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937.) Join us by going to the above site and selecting National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

Farm Family Safety Day Held at Harry Wimberly's Farm



The Conservation District is grateful to the Wimberly Family for hosting our first Farm Family Safety Day. 45 people attended the fun filled event. We hope to move this event around the county. If anyone would like to

host a Farm Family Safety Day, call the district at (803) 534-2409x.3 We will gladly talk with you about what is needed and what we do.

The stations at the event included: Electrical, Chemical, Gravity Flow

Wagon, Tractor and ATV safety. Ice Cream Sandwiches were supplied by the Farm Bureau Women Auxiliary. O-C Tech Assoc. Degree Nurses talked about Sun Safety and presented 2 puppet shows. Everyone had a great time.

2 “Princeton” American Elm given to Lake Marion High School



Pictured above are: Steven Mack, Donta Howell, Matthew Hood, Michael Caron and James Ulmer, FFA Advisor

Pictured below are: Darryl Murry, Brit-tany Middleton, Dameon Hart, Rodrick Rourk, and James Ulmer, FFA Advisor



The Orangeburg County Conservation District has given Lake Marion High School 2 American Elm Trees. These are not just any American Elm, they are “Princeton” American Elms. They are special because they come from stock that was planted lining the streets of Princeton, New Jersey in 1932. These trees have a survival rate of over 95% from all causes including Dutch Elm Disease. Over 100 million American Elm trees have succumbed to the epidemic in the time since this historic planting. The “Princeton” American Elm is the only American Elm cultivar with over seven decades of landscape proven tolerance to Dutch Elm Disease. It has scored at the top for resistance to Dutch Elm Disease by the USDA National Arboretum research team.

According to the National Audubon Society *Field Guide to North American Trees Eastern Region* p.419 – Dutch Elm Disease is caused by a fungus which was accidentally introduced into the United States about 1930. It is spread by European and native elm bark beetles.

The “Princeton” American Elm trees are not produced from grafts or from seed. They are on their own root stock. Now that these trees have become available to the public, the Conservation District hopes to make it a tradition to plant them around the county. Planting trees is a promise to tomorrow. Trees clean the air, the soil and the water and store carbon. Environmentally, a tree is a great investment. If you have to take down a tree, you should plant another tree. Trees are renewable resources.

Renewable resources can be replaced. Nonrenewable resources cannot be replaced. Examples of non-renewable resources are petroleum, coal, and natural gas. These resources are in limited supply and once they are used up, they are gone. Global warming has become a major concern. One way each of us can make a difference is by planting a tree. Trees are great ways to celebrate birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc. Trees are vital to our environment. Do something for the world of tomorrow, plant a tree today.



2007 Affiliate Members

Top Supporter—Horne Foundation

Engineering Resources Corp.
Charles O. Farnum, III
Orangeburg Milling Co.
Fogle Brothers Const. Co.,
James C. Williams, Jr.
Star Redit Mix
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Rotema Farms, Inc.
Orangeburg Pharmacy
Tri-County Electric
Pilot Club of Orangeburg
Brad Hutto, Tracey Macpherson &
Skyler
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Horse Range Farms
Bruce Proctor
T F Riley, Jr.
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Charles Williams
Crum Farms

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Mixson Seed
R. Barry Hutto Farm
Jim Mullis
Ewart C. Irick
Zeus
Edisto Electric

William McPherson
George D. Shuler
WIMCO
Emerald Lea Farms
George Ulmer
Diane & Don Curlee
Glenda & Jerry Lewis-
Gasque Farms
Triple A Farms



2008 Calendar

January

Monthly News Article:
Backyard Habitat

15-18 Sate Conference

ANNUAL REPORT COMPLETED

(Jan.-March) Call for info on
SC Institute for Natural Resource
Conservation 11th & 12th Graders 2008
(scholarship opportunity).

February

Monthly News Article:
Bird Boxes

NACD 2008 Meeting
10-14 Reno, NV

March

Monthly News Article:
Hummingbirds

15 Scholarship Deadline
SC Chapter Soil & Water Society
28-30 SC Native Plant Society's
11th Annual Native Plant
Symposium
Madren Conf. Center, Clemson

April

Monthly News Article:
Earth Day

22 Earth Day

Check air in tires—save gas EVENT

27 Soil Stewardship Week Begins

Theme: *Water is Life*

May

Monthly News Article:
Soil Stewardship Week

2 SC Envirothon @ Sandhills REC

4 Soil Stewardship Week Ends

June

Monthly News Article:
Pollinator Week

6-8 EEASC Spring Conference to be
held at St. Christopher on Seabrook
Island

4-H₂O Day Camp

Action Today
(SCDHEC)

July

Monthly News Article:
Irrigation Awareness

Farm Family Safety Day

August

Monthly News Article:
Watershed Awareness

Information Available for Carolina
Coastal Adventure (9th—10th Grades)

September

Monthly News Article:
Farm Family Safety

6 Safe Kids Super Saturday

Farm /City Day @
Orangeburg County Fair
Sept. 29—Oct. 5

October

Monthly News Article:
Air Quality

Fire Prevention Week

Earth Science Week

November

Monthly News Article:
Recycling

SECDEA Annual Meeting
11-13 Pigeon Forge, TN
15 America Recycles Day

December

Monthly News Article:
Arbor Day

5 SC Arbor Day

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THE FUNCTION OF THE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Orangeburg County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Orangeburg County Agricultural Building
1550 Henley St., NE Room 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Phone: 803-534-2409 x. 3
Fax: 803-536-5827
E-mail: Glenda.Lewis@sc.nacdnet.net
E-mail: Diane.Curlee@sc.nacdnet.net

**TO TAKE AVAILABLE
TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES,
WHATEVER THEIR SOURCE,
AND FOCUS OR
COORDINATE THEM SO THAT
THEY MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE LOCAL LAND USER
FOR CONSERVATION OF SOIL,
WATER AND
RELATED RESOURCES.**



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The Orangeburg County SWCD Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except July and December. *The meetings are open to the public.* The meetings are held in the Orangeburg County Agricultural Building in Room 205, 1550 Henley St., NE, Orangeburg, S.C. at 5:00 PM.



**Carolina Coastal
Adventure**

Ashley Felder, a freshman at Holly Hill Academy,

represented the conservation district at the weekend camp. At Cypress Gardens she went canoeing, visited the butterfly house and the aquarium. She saw the locks at the Old Santee Canal and explored the tidal pools and depths of the Charleston Harbor. A Gullah Storyteller spun tales for the campers as they sat around a campfire that provided warmth against the autumn air as the sun dropped below the horizon on Friday afternoon.

How did they cram so much into one weekend? Jonathan Williams, SC DNR, says that it is a well

planned event. It starts as the youth arrive on Friday afternoon at 4:00PM and goes nonstop until the closing on Sunday afternoon at 2:00PM.

Notices are sent to the freshman and sophomore science teachers in August each year. A parent and the interested student come by our office and fill out the application for the camp. The Conservation District pays for the campers to attend.

**40th Annual SC Institute for
Natural Resources**

Gregory Zack Ard enjoyed his week at the institute held at Lander University, Greenwood. The canoe trip on the Saluda River was a big suc-



cess. After class & field studies the first three days, it was a welcome break. The exam on Friday determined who was going to get the scholarships. The person scoring the highest is offered a \$2,000 Environmental Education Scholarship at Lander University. Applications for 2008 will be available soon.

